

UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS  
Logistics Operations School  
Marine Corps Service Support Schools  
PSC BOX 20041  
Camp Lejeune, North Carolina 28541-0041

STUDENT OUTLINE

DOCTRINAL CONCEPTS

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- a. Terminal Learning Objective: Given a multiple choice examination and or a situation as a member of a MAGTF Logistics section, given an amphibious operation, operations order, landing plan, load plan, and references, coordinate and monitor ship-to-shore functions with the aid of and in accordance with the references. (0431.4.5)
- b. Enabling Learning Objectives: Given a multiple choice examination and or a situation as a member of a MAGTF Logistics section, with the aid of and in accordance with the references, the student will: (0431.4.5.6)
1. State the definition of an amphibious operation.
  2. State the purpose of an amphibious operation.
  3. Describe the four types of amphibious operations.
  4. Define key terms used during an amphibious operation:
    - a. Amphibious Task Force (ATF)
    - b. Navy Force
    - c. Landing Force
    - d. Commander Amphibious Task Force (CATF)
    - e. Commander Landing Force (CLF)
  5. Describe the characteristics of amphibious operations.
  6. Describe the five phases of an amphibious operation.
  7. State the conditions which must be met to terminate an amphibious operation.
  8. Describe the command relationship between elements of the ATF during the five phases of an amphibious operation.  
(0431.4.5.6)

REQUIRED RESOURCES:

Student Handout C103-1 (11-98)

EMBARK C103-1 (11-98)

## **OUTLINE:**

### **1. Introduction--Historical Information:**

a. Amphibious operations are traditional to the Navy and Marine Corps and are a part of their mission.

b. Original USMC operating units, Marine Barracks ashore and Marine detachments on board warships formed provisional landing forces and landing parties with sailors of the fleet.

c. Marine Advanced Base Force organized in 1901, became the Fleet Marine Force in 1933.

2. U. S. Navy published the first manual concerning landing operations in 1886 which was called "The Naval Brigade and Operations Ashore" by 1stLt Gilman, USMC. This publication evolved into the "Landing Force and Small Arms Manual" in 1918 and in 1950 it took the name "Landing Party Manual". The series concentrated on drill and tactics required to employ Navy and Marine Landing Forces (or landing parties) ashore.

3. During the 1930's, the Marines in coordination with U.S. Navy developed a manual called "Tentative Landing Operations Manual". This manual was the first to address doctrine for embarkation, ship-to-shore movement, naval gunfire, air support, and command relationships which were applied and tested by all services during World War II. The manual evolved into the "Joint Doctrine For Amphibious Operations", Joint Pub 3-02 which is not only a joint manual used by all U.S. Services, there is also a NATO version, ATP-8.

### **4. General concepts for amphibious operations.**

a. Definition of an Amphibious Operation: An amphibious operation is an attack launched from the sea by naval forces, embarked in ships or craft involving a landing on a hostile shore or potentially hostile shore.

b. Amphibious operations are designed and conducted primarily to:

- (1) Prosecute further combat operations.
- (2) Obtain a site for an advanced naval, land, or air base.
- (3) Deny the use of an area or facilities to the enemy.
- (4) Fix enemy forces and attention, providing opportunities for other combat operations.

c. Types of Amphibious Operations:

(1) Amphibious Assault: Principal type of amphibious operation. It involves establishing a force on a hostile or potentially hostile shore.

(2) Amphibious Demonstration: An amphibious operation conducted to deceive the enemy by a show of force with exception of deluding the enemy into a course of action unfavorable to it.

(3) Amphibious Raid: An amphibious operation involving swift incursion into or a temporary occupation of an objective followed by a planned withdrawal.

(4) Amphibious Withdrawal: An amphibious operation involving the extraction of forces by sea in naval ships or craft from a hostile or potentially hostile shore.

d. Not all amphibious operations conducted are included in the four types. The ATF may be called upon to conduct non-conventional amphibious operations that may closely parallel one of the four types such as noncombatant evacuation operations (NEO) which may closely parallel an amphibious raid. During such operations command relationships normally remain the same.

5. The Amphibious Task Force: Task organization formed for conducting an amphibious operation is the ATF. The ATF always includes Navy forces and landing forces. There are special terms used to designate the organizations and key commanders that make up the ATF and that participate in an amphibious operation, they are:

a. Composition. Naval and landing forces embarked with their organic aviation; may include Military Sealift Command and Air Force components when required.

b. Commander. The ATF is commanded by the senior Naval officer and is designated as the Commander Amphibious Task Force (CATF).

c. Naval Forces. Naval forces are comprised of elements that are part of the ATF or support the ATF are organized into task groups for the operation. The navy forces are formed into a single subordinate component of the ATF that is designated as the Navy Amphibious Force.

(1) Composition. Naval surface, aviation, and subsurface forces.

(2) Commander. The CATF as the senior naval officer present is also the commander of the Navy Amphibious Force comprising the ATF.

d. Landing Force (LF). The landing force consists of the command, combat, combat support, and CSS elements assigned to conduct the amphibious assault both air and ground.

(1) Composition. The LF may be composed of Army and or Marine Corps forces.

(2) Commander. The commander of the landing force is the senior LF officer in the ATF.

e. Air Force Forces. Air units when assigned to an ATF, are normally organized as a separate task organization under command of an Air Force officer. The CATF exercises OPCON of these assigned forces.

f. Other Forces. Forces other than those discussed above may be temporarily assigned or attached to the ATF for planning and conduct of special tasks such as those associated with garrison and base development, civil-military operations, psychological operations (PSYOP), special operations, and liaison with US Government and host-nation civil authorities. The CLF provides for embarking and landing these forces and assisting, as directed, the initiation of assigned tasks as permitted by the operational situation.

6. Amphibious Objective Area. A geographical area, delineated in the initiating directive, for purpose of command and control within which is located the objective(s) to be secured by the amphibious task force. This area must be of sufficient size to ensure accomplishment of the amphibious task force's mission and must provide sufficient area for conducting necessary sea, air, and land operations.

7. Characteristics of Amphibious Operations. An amphibious operation is a military operation launched from the sea by naval and landing forces embarked in ships or craft involving a landing on a hostile or potentially hostile shore. It is directed by the combatant commander, sub-unified commander, or JTF commander delegated overall responsibility for the operation. An amphibious operation requires extensive air participation and is characterized by closely integrated efforts of forces trained, organized, and equipped for different combat functions. It integrates efforts of all types of ships, aircraft, weapons, and units of the Navy and landing forces.

a. Strengths.

- (1) Strategic mobility and flexibility.
- (2) Forcible entry capabilities.
- (3) Projection of naval power ashore.

b. Limitations.

- (1) Initial zero combat power ashore.
- (2) Initial artillery support ashore.
- (3) Initial logistical support ashore.
- (4) Maintaining tactical integrity.
- (5) Difficulty in employing reserves while still afloat.
- (6) Sensitivity to weather, seas, surf, and hydrographic conditions.

8. Supporting Operations. In amphibious operations, supporting operations are those operations conducted by forces other than those assigned to the ATF. They are ordered by higher authority at the request of the CATF and normally are conducted outside the area for which the CATF is responsible at the time of their execution. Supporting operations are conducted in the AOA before or during the amphibious operation and are coordinated by the CATF. Supporting operations are conducted to:

- a. Deceive the enemy.
- b. Isolate the landing area.
- c. Assist in gaining or maintaining air, ground, and naval superiority in the landing area.
- d. Air, surface, subsurface, or special operations designed to secure information.
- e. Special operations designed to disrupt, delay, or confuse the enemy.
- f. Mine countermeasures (MCM) operations conducted in the vicinity of the intended landing area.
- g. Special operations, in and along the beachhead area prior to establishing the AOA, to gather intelligence and or to clear obstacles.

9. Pre-assault Operations. Pre-assault operations are not supporting operations. Pre-assault operations are conducted in the AOA by elements of the ATF before the arrival of the major assault elements. Pre-assault operations are normally conducted to:

- a. Isolate the objective area.
- b. Gain information on the enemy and the objective area.

- c. Prepare the objective area. i.e SEALS/FORCE RECON
- d. Conduct tactical deception to confuse the enemy.

10. **Relative Strength Requirements.** In order to achieve success, the ATF should be assured that in the landing area of:

- a. Air Superiority
- b. Naval Superiority
- c. Relative Combat Power (Maneuver + Firepower)
- d. Freedom from effective interference by enemy forces.
- e. The ability to provide continuous support for the forces ashore.

11. **Operational Concepts for the Amphibious Assault.** As pointed out earlier, the amphibious assault is the principal type of amphibious operation. It involves the establishment of the landing force ashore in the amphibious objective area.

a. **Initiating Directive.** An order to the commander of an ATF, to conduct an amphibious operation, and is issued by unified, sub-unified, service component, or joint task force commander delegated overall responsibility for the operation. It normally contains the following:

- (1) Mission
- (2) Assignment of forces
- (3) Designates CATF and CLF
- (4) Code name
- (5) Target dates
- (6) Special instructions
- (7) Termination
- (8) Supporting Operations

b. **Phases of the Amphibious Operation.** Amphibious operations follow a well defined pattern or sequence of events. Each phase of the operation bears the title of the dominant activity taking place within the period concerned. Planning, for example occurs throughout the entire operation but is dominant only in the period prior to embarkation. The five phases through which an amphibious assault progresses and the dominant activities within each are:

(1) Planning. The period extending from issuance of the initiating directive to embarkation. Amphibious planning procedures are distinguished by the necessity for concurrent, parallel, and detailed planning by all participating forces.

(2) Embarkation. The embarkation phase is the period during which the forces, with their equipment and supplies embark on board assigned shipping.

(3) Rehearsal. The rehearsal phase is the period during which the perspective operation is rehearsed for the purpose of:

- Testing plans, timing, and combat readiness.
- Ensuring all echelons are familiar with the plan.
- Test communication plan.

(4) Movement. The movement phase is the period during which various elements of the ATF move from points of embarkation to the AOA. This phase is complete when assigned elements of the ATF arrive at their assigned positions.

(5) Assault. The period between arrival of the major assault forces of the ATF in the landing area and the accomplishment of the ATF mission. This phase includes final preparation of the objective area, ship-to-shore movement to conduct assault surface and or helicopter borne landings, ground combat operations inland, landing remaining units of the landing force, and the conduct of other naval air and ground operations that are necessary to accomplish the ATF mission.

## 12. Command relationships during amphibious operations.

a. Planning Phase. Encompasses entire planning phase.

- (1) CATF and CLF co-equal
- (2) Differences are resolved by common superior
- (3) CATF coordinates planning

b. Execution Phase. For execution during the operational phases.

(1) Operational phases are embarkation, rehearsal, movement, and the assault.

(2) Commencing with embarkation component commanders report to CATF for operational control (OPCON).

(3) Administrative control remains with parent commanders.

c. Termination of the Assault. Termination of the amphibious operation is predicated upon meeting the following conditions:

- (1) Successful accomplishment of ATF mission.
- (2) Establishment of the landing force ashore:
  - The beachhead is secured.
  - Sufficient tactical and supporting forces have been established ashore to ensure the continuous landing of troops and material requisite for subsequent operations.
  - Command, communications, and supporting arms coordination facilities have been established ashore.
  - Landing force commander is ready to assume full responsibility for subsequent operations.

(3) CATF and CLF agree.

13. Basic decisions. Basic decisions are those decisions that must be made at the highest level within the ATF before detailed planning for an amphibious operation can proceed.

a. Selection of ATF General Course of Action. CATF and CLF select from the mission and coordinating instructions received in the initiating directive, what general course of action the ATF should follow in accomplishing its mission. The general course of action is just that, a general framework within which to begin the planning process.

b. Select ATF Objectives. If not already identified in the initiating directive, CATF and CLF will jointly select. ATF objectives are often key facilities such as ports or airfields.

c. Determine Landing Force Mission. The CATF determines the landing force mission and the CLF develops a mission statement for the landing and submits it to CATF for concurrence.

d. Designation of Landing Sites. CATF identifies potential landing sites based on analysis of the coastline, approaches, hydrography and weather. Once designated landing sites have been identified within the AOA they are provided to the CLF for mission planning.

e. Determine Landing Force Objectives. CLF selects objectives which allow the LF to accomplish its mission as determined by CATF. Achievement of LF objectives, in support of ATF objectives will ensure mission accomplishment.



f. Selection of Beachheads. CLF determines beachheads for each landing site. These beachheads must provide maneuver space required for subsequent operations ashore.

g. Select Landing Areas. CATF delineates landing areas, expressed in terms of sea area and air space required for each beachhead selected by CLF. The CATF provides a prioritized list of landing areas to CLF. CLF selects primary and alternate landing areas and presents his selections to CATF for concurrence.

h. Landing Force Concept of Operations Ashore. CLF determines concept of operations ashore and publishes the intent with respect to the operation.

i. Landing Beach Selection. A landing beach is that portion of a shoreline usually required for the landing of battalion landing team. The CLF selects specific landing beaches from available landing sites within the selected landing areas.

j. Selection of HELO LZ's. An HLZ is specified ground area for landing assault helicopters to embark or disembark. The CLF selects LZ's and advises CATF.

k. Selection of Fixed-Wing Aircraft LZs and Drop Zones. When airborne or air-transported forces are employed, CLF, after consulting with the airborne force commander selects LZs and DZs. CATF reviews the selected zones to determine the ability to support operations with forces available.

l. Selection of Tentative Date and Hour of Landing. If not specified in the initiating directive, CATF, after consultation with CLF and other commanders selects the tentative date (D-day) and hour (H-hour) of landing.